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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR EC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ECUADOR: GOE WITHDRAWS INVITATION

REF: (A) QUITO 3642 (B) QUITO 3662 (C) QUITO 3664

1. SUMMARY: SUBSECRETARY FOREIGN MINISTRY, JOSE AYALA LASSO, CALLED DCM TO MINISTRY MORNING MAY 21 TO SAY THAT THE NECESSARY ATMOSPHERE FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS NOT BEEN CREATED AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS GOE HOPED THAT CONDITIONS WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO SUCH A VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE EXPRESSED GOE INTENTION TO CONTINUE WORKING TOWARD FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOSE AYALA LASSO INFORMED DCM AT 10:00 A.M. MAY 21 THAT GOE HAD ANALYZED WITH MUCH CARE CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON OF AMBASSADOR CARDENAS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS AND HAD DETERMINED THAT NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE NOT PRESENT FOR A VISIT OF THE SECRETARY TO ECUADOR AT THIS TIME. THE DCM WAS ACCOMPANIED IN HIS CALL ON THE SUBSECRETARY BY THE POLCOUNS, AND AMBASSADOR ORLANDO GABELA, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROTOCOL WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

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3. THE SUBSECRETARY STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S

COUNTEROFFERS TO THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE GOE HAD MADE WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING, AND THAT THOUGH ECUADOR WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, IT WOULD NOT WANT TO DO SO UNLESS IT COULD BE SURE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE WELL-RECEIVED AND THAT HIS VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF US/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS. THE SUBSECRETARY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR CARDENAS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN THAT THE SECRETARY COULD NOT ACCEPT CONDITIONS ON HIS VISIT AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD REGRESSED ON PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE ON ECUADOREAN PROPOSALS TO PREPARE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE VISIT. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY US FISHING LEGISLATION, SAYING THAT GOE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE WILLING TO STATE THAT THE USG WOULD ENDEAVOR TO IMPLEMENT NEW US FISHING LAW IN A WAY THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS, NOT CAUSE DISCORD. ACCORDING TO THE SUBSECRETARY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN INFORMED AMBASSADOR CARDENAS YESTERDAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NO LONGER WILLING TO PROMISE SUCH A STATEMENT. THIS COUPLED WITH OTHER FACTORS HAD CONVINCED THE GOE THAT CONDITIONS DID NOT EXIST THAT WOULD MAKE THE VISIT USEFUL.

- 4. THE SUBSECRETARY STRESSED STRONGLY AND REPEATEDLY THAT THE GOE IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE SAID THE GOE IS CONVINCED THAT IT IS IN ECUADOR'S INTEREST TO HAVE CLOSER AND MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE GOE DECISION ON THE VISIT WAS MADE WITH THIS IN MIND, SINCE THE GOE WOULD WANT SUCH A VISIT TO BETTER OUR RELATIONS, NOT DETRACT FROM THEM. THE SUBSECRETARY SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE TO PREPARE FOR A VISIT OF THIS TYPE WITH GREATER CARE, INDICATING ECUADOR WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE SUCH A VISIT IN THE FUTURE IF AN APPROPRIATE ATMOSPHERE COULD BE CREATED.
- 5. THE SUBSECRETARY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR CARDENAS WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, PROBABLY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN, TO PROVIDE SECRET

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HIME THE SAME INFORMATION THAT WAS BEING GIVEN THE EMBASSY.

6. DCM RESPONDED THAT JUST AS ECUADOR MUST BE SENSITIVE TO DOMESTIC OPINION SO TOO MUST THE US. WE BELIEVED WE HAD BEEN AS RESPONSIVE TO ECUADOR'S CONCERNS FOR CREATING A GOOD ATMOSPHERE AS POSSIBLE WITHIN AN OUR OWN LIMITATIONS. THE DCM EXPRESSED REGRET AT GOE DECISION BUT SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS IT REMAINED THE FIRM INTENTION OF THE USG

TO IMPROVE OUR ALREADY GOOD RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD ON ALL FRONTS TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE.

7. DCM THEN WENT TO RESIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD WHO HAD ARRIVED IN QUITO A FEW HOURS EARLIER TO INFORM HIM OF THE ABOVE. AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD SAID HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR CARDENAS AT WHICH THE LANGUAGE OF THE FISHING LAW ISSUE AROSE. HE SAID THAT THERE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A MISUNDER-STANDING ON THIS MATTER. IT HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR CARDENAS WHO HAD OPPOSED THE LANGUAGE "AVOID DISCORD" AND WHO HAD PROPOSED SOMETHING SUCH AS "TO AVOID DAMAGE TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS," LANGUAGE THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD AGREED TO.

8. DCM (BECAUSE AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD HAS NOT YET PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AND ECUADOREANS ARE STICKLERS ON PROTOCOL) THEREUPON TELEPHONED AYALA TO PASS ON THE ABOVE AND TO PASS ON BLOOMFIELD'S HOPE THAT THIS POINT COULD BE CLARIFIED THROUGH AMBASSADOR CARDENAS SO THAT THE VISIT COULD GO FORWARD. AYALA SAID THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY THE LANGUAGE ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT BUT ON OTHER POINTS AS WELL THAT CAUSED THE GOE TO MAKE THE DECISION THAT IT HAD. HE PARTICULARLY CITED THE USG DECISION COMMUNICATED TO THEIR FINANCE MINISTER BY SECRETARY SIMON IN CANCUN, TO CONTINUE TO DENY ECUADOR ACCESS TO US-APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR SOFT LOANS AT THE IDB. HE REPEATED THAT ECUADOR HAD NOT INTENDED TO PLACE PRIOR CONDITIONS ON THE VISIT BUT MERELY TO ASSURE THAT IT HAD POSITIVE AND TANGIBLE RESULTS. AYALA SAID THAT THE GOE HOPES THAT CONDITIONS FOR A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY WOULD BE MORE PROPITIOUS AT SOME FUTURE TIME.

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